

Friday, December 12, 2008

From the Coeur d'Alene Press

- Harbor Center lease on hold

From the Spokesman-Review

- No new education news stories posted online today.

From the Moscow Pullman Daily News (password required)

- Fall graduation ceremonies on tap for UI, WSU

From the Lewiston Tribune (password required)

- ISU considers cutting general ed requirements

From the Idaho-Press Tribune, Nampa

- No new education news stories posted online today.

From the Idaho Statesman

- E. Idaho students out en masse with stomach flu

From the Twin Falls Times-News

- ISU considers cutting general ed requirements

From the Idaho State Journal (password Required)

- ISU joins nuke research group

From the Idaho Falls Post Register (password required)

- Rexburg students out en masse with stomach flu
- Getting crafty

FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

Harbor Center lease on hold

By MAUREEN DOLAN

Staff writer

Majority of State Board of Education members did not approve of agreement

COEUR d'ALENE -- A proposed long-term lease of the Harbor Center property from the city of Coeur d'Alene to the University of Idaho has been shelved indefinitely.

University President Steven Daley-Laursen told The Press that at this time, the majority of Idaho State Board of Education members do not support the university's entrance into the agreement.

"We've put it on hold," Daley-Laursen said.

The proposed agreement, approved by the City Council in June, would secure for the university a guaranteed long-term leasehold through 2206 of the building and property on West Hubbard Avenue for a single payment of \$1.3 million.

The proposal was considered by the state board of education in June. State board members, who also act as the board of regents for the university, balked and tabled their decision saying they needed more information and would reconsider it at a fall meeting.

The lease agreement never made it back to an agenda.

State board of education president Milford Terrell was unavailable for comment regarding the board's lack of support for the agreement.

Daley-Laursen said the university hopes to have the board revisit the lease for approval sometime in the future.

The Harbor Center building, known by many as the "old Osprey restaurant," is located adjacent to the city's wastewater treatment plant and sits within the acreage being considered for development as part of an education corridor.

The proposed lease agreement would have allowed the city to direct the university's \$1.3 million lease payment toward the purchase of the DeArmond mill site from developer Marshall Chesrown for \$10 million.

By signing the agreement, the university would also gain rights to 2.5-acres within the 17-acre mill site.

North Idaho College, through its nonprofit NIC Foundation, is moving forward with securing financing for the purchase of the mill site property on its own. The college will use mostly

foregone taxes for the down payment and to pay back loans the foundation will secure on its behalf.

"When the board of trustees decided to press forward, they opted to not count on those funds (the \$1.3 million lease payment) as a resource because of the uncertainty of how that transaction would go," said NIC spokesman John Martin.

The city has leased the Harbor Center to the university since 2002 for \$10 per year. The current lease expires in 2010.

The university is seeking an extension of that lease for five years.

"The city's vision for a partnership with the University of Idaho has not changed. There are several options available to us to make sure we continue to have a working relationship with the university," said Mayor Sandi Bloem. "We will do what is best for all the partners."

Daley-Laursen, who took over as president of the university after Tim White's May resignation, has been meeting with those partners, the leaders of the other higher education institutions involved in the creation of the education corridor.

He said he and Lewis-Clark State College President Dene Thomas and North Idaho College President Priscilla Bell have begun focusing on the educational programming needs of North Idaho because all the partners believe that is what should govern what any building looks like.

The university received \$420,000 from the Legislature last year for the planning and design of a building in Coeur d'Alene. Daley-Laursen said those funds will be used regardless of where their building goes up within the education corridor.

FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Fall graduation ceremonies on tap for UI, WSU

Staff report

Posted on: Thursday, December 11, 2008

Fall commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday at Washington State University and the University of Idaho.

Degrees will be conferred to about 800 WSU graduates beginning at 10 a.m. in Beasley Coliseum.

The ceremony, which is free and open to the public, will last about two hours. President Elson S. Floyd will confer degrees and Seattle Times CEO and publisher Frank Blethen will speak.

Several receptions also are scheduled this weekend for graduates and their families.

The Distance Degree Program reception will be at 4 p.m. Friday in the WSU Lewis Alumni Center. The College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences will host a luncheon immediately after the commencement ceremony in the Vogel Plant Biosciences Building. The Edward R. Murrow College of Communication reception will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Communication Addition Lower Atrium. The Lewis Alumni Center will host an open house from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

About 700 UI graduates will receive their degrees beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the Kibbie Dome.

The ceremony is free and open to the public. College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences Dean Katherine Aiken will speak.

President Steven Daley-Laursen will host a President's Reception immediately following the ceremony on the main floor of the Kibbie Dome. All graduates and their families and friends are invited.

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

ISU considers cutting general ed requirements

Associated Press
December 12, 2008

POCATELLO - Administrators at Idaho State University will consider trimming the number of general education courses students must take to graduate as part of a plan to save money.

At a faculty forum last week, university President Arthur Vailas said scaling back on required general education credit hours is one of several areas where the school can make up for state funding shortfalls.

Gov. C.L. (Butch) Otter ordered state agencies to cut spending by 3 percent earlier this month because a downturn in the Idaho economy has reduced tax revenue. The governor announced a 1 percent holdback in September.

ISU has a \$77.3 million yearly budget and has already detailed plans to heavily scrutinize hiring and clamp down on other costs. The general education requirements for students haven't been

updated in about 20 years, said Stephen Adkison, an English professor and associate provost for academic programming at university.

"The basic structure is going to continue serving our students well, but we need to tweak it," Adkison told the Idaho State Journal newspaper.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, which accredits and evaluates higher education institutions in seven states, determined in 2004 that ISU had "no systematic assessment" of the results it expects from the general education coursework, Adkison said.

Under the requirements, undergraduates have to complete 128 credits to graduate, with 46 to 50 of those credits from outside their degree program.

The commission suggested the school review the required general education coursework by next year, Adkison said.

Reducing the number of required general education credits will ease academic workloads and boost the university's ability to keep students, Adkison said. A state Board of Education report on retention rates this year found that nearly one out of every two freshmen who enrolled at ISU in 2007 has since left.

"It could be easier in theory for students to complete their general education requirements and move into their major's courses," Adkison said.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

E. Idaho students out en masse with stomach flu

A wicked case of the stomach flu has felled as many as 15 percent of high school and middle school students in Madison County, with district officials calling it "one of the worst cases of student sickness in five years."

More than 100 students were absent from Madison High School this week.

Janet Goodliffe, a spokeswoman for the district, says students reported stomach pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea for up to two days.

Clay Prince, a doctor at the Rexburg Medical Center, says his facility has seen a "slight increase" in the number of people seeking formal medical attention for flu-like symptoms.

Madison School District officials believe that incidents of the stomach flu are decreasing, but they want students to stay home if they are sick.

FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

ISU considers cutting general ed requirements

POCATELLO, Idaho - Administrators at Idaho State University will consider trimming the number of general education courses students must take to graduate as part of a plan to save money.

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FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

ISU joins nuke research group

BY YANN RANAIVO
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POCATELLO — A nationwide nonprofit organization specializing in nuclear research has accepted Idaho State University as an affiliated member.

The Southeastern Universities Research Association is an umbrella group for the Jefferson Laboratory, a nuclear physics research facility based out of Newport News, Va.

Philip Cole, a physics professor and ISU representative to SURA, said the membership will help the university acquire more research grants and increases its reputation on a national and global scale. He said the university was accepted into SURA largely due to its work with the Idaho Accelerator Center in Pocatello, and the attention it received during an research conference last year.

“It takes us from something regional to international,” Cole said. “SURA has international reputation, and people who go there come from abroad.”

SURA also assisted ISU financially when it recently hired an Italian research faculty member from the Jefferson Lab. The faculty member, who will be paid by ISU and SURA, will start a new physics program that will combine ISU’s and the Jefferson Lab’s research.

Cole said the Idaho Accelerator Center provides hands-on training in nuclear physics, a major area of research at the Jefferson Lab.

He said the Jefferson Lab has done a great deal of research on the nature of protons and neutrons, which bind together to form an atom’s nucleus.

He said recent advancements have allowed further exploration of the nature of those particles’ relationships.

“It’s only until recent times that we can make accelerators that have been able to go to these lengths,” he said.

Cole said nuclear physics has practical applications, such as scanning cargo containers for the presence of nuclear materials, measuring breast tumors and studying cracks on airplane components such as wings.

“We’ve tripled our graduate enrollment in the last five years. So we’re one of the top programs in the nation for applied nuclear science,” Doug Wells, director for Idaho Accelerator Center, said about ISU’s nuclear physics program.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Rexburg students out en masse with stomach flu

Associated Press

REXBURG, Idaho (AP) — A wicked case of the stomach flu has felled as many as 15 percent of high school and middle school students in Madison County, with district officials calling it “one of the worst cases of student sickness in five years.”

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Getting crafty

Mike Vogt / Associated Press - Idaho Arts Charter School students Maddison Thorpe, left, and Stefan Weiss work on their leather crafts as nationally known leather artist Deana Attebery shows the students the different kinds of tools of the trade Tuesday in Nampa. The school received a National Endowment grant to hold a series of Folk Arts after school enrichment classes for at-risk youths.